



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 13, 2009  
RESUBMITTED: August 17, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Special Fishing Regulations, (FO-201)  
Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to provide for better protection and preservation of fish, game and birds.

Discussion and Background:

The Big Island Lakes Complex in the Hiawatha National Forest is a popular destination for many outdoor enthusiasts, including anglers. Restrictive regulations for the Big Island Lakes Complex have played a key role in providing quality fisheries throughout the complex. Recent fisheries surveys and angler reports from within the wilderness area indicate that the current regulations are effective. This regulation has been in place for several years and has provided anglers with a quality angling experience while protecting fisheries resources for the enjoyment of many. There is much support from anglers to continue existing regulations to protect these valuable fisheries into the future.

Fisheries Orders issued under the authority of 1994 PA 451, Part 411 shall not remain in effect for more than five years unless renewed. The current order is set to expire March 31, 2010. It is recommended this order be renewed as written.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • Timothy L. Nichols • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

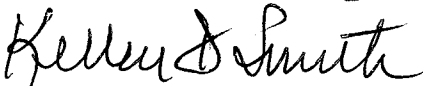
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August 17, 2009

Recommendation:

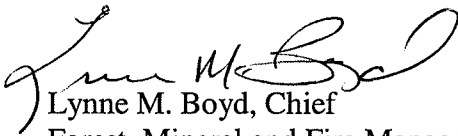
This order was submitted for information and consideration at the August 13, 2009, Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's August 2009 calendar and may be eligible for approval on September 10, 2009.



Kelley D. Smith, Chief  
Fisheries Division



David E. Freed, Chief  
Land and Facilities



Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division



Arminda S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

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Date Approved

# ORDER

## **SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS, BIG ISLAND LAKES COMPLEX, SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY**

By authority conferred on the Department of Natural Resources by sections 41101 through 41105 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, being MCL 324.41101 through 324.41105, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on September 10, 2009, ordered that for a period of five years the following regulations apply in the waters known as the Big Island Lake Complex:

The Big Island Lake Complex is described as all lands and waters bounded by County Road 445 on the west, County Road 437 on the south, U. S. Forest Service Haywire Grade Snowmobile Trail on the east and Townline Lake Road on the north. The area includes all connecting waterways and 12 major lakes: Big Island, Townline, Mid, Coattail, McInnes, Klondyke, Ned's, Vance, Twilight, Blush, Byers and Bluegill, all in Schoolcraft County.

1. Artificial lures only. The use of spears, nets, bow and arrow, or live bait is prohibited.
2. Minimum size limits, possession limits, and open seasons are as follows:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Seasons</b>	<b>Min. Size Limit</b>	<b>Daily/Possession Limit</b>
Muskellunge or Northern Pike	May 15 – November 30	42 inches	1 fish per day
Bass	Sat. before Memorial Day – November 30	18 inches	1 fish per day
Yellow Perch, Bluegill & Pumpkinseed	Last Sat. in April - November 30	No size limit	5 fish per day in combination
Trout (Ned's & Twilight only)	Last Sat. in April – Sept. 30	15 inches	1 fish per day

3. No person shall take or possess any other species of fish from these waters.

This order shall be assigned number FO-201.10, and is entitled "Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island Lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County."

This order supersedes the order entitled "Special Fishing Regulations, Big Island lakes Complex, Schoolcraft County," effective April 1, 2005, and assigned number FO-201.05.

This order shall take effect April 1, 2010, and shall remain effective through March 31, 2015.

Issued on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

The Natural Resources Commission has reviewed this order.

Keith J. Charters  
Chairperson

Teresa Gloden  
Executive Secretary